

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Specification Amendments:

The specification has been amended to correct a minor error noted in numbered paragraph 2) of the Office Action, and to provide a more descriptive title based on the objection made in numbered paragraph 3) of the Office Action.

Status of Claims:

Claims 2 and 4 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-22 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3 and 5-22 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 2, 3 and 5-22. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of its dependent claim 2, and thus claim 1 is now in condition for allowance based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 2 (which is now canceled). Claim 7 has been amended to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims, and thus claim 7 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 22 has been amended to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims, and thus claim 22 is now in condition for allowance. All of the remaining claims that are presently pending depend either directly or

indirectly from claim 1 or claim 7, and thus those claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - Indefiniteness:

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 4) of the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this indefiniteness rejection.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,003,530 to Yamamori. Due to the amendment made to claim 1 so that it now includes the features of “objected to” claim 2, and due to the cancellation of claim 4, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the objections are rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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